

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 505

By Reeves

A RESOLUTION to request the Tennessee Board of Pharmacy to study the work environment of pharmacies to determine if rules should be promulgated to promote patient safety.

WHEREAS, one of the primary responsibilities of a pharmacist is to hold the health and safety of patients to be the first consideration and to render each patient the full measure of the pharmacist's ability as an essential health practitioner; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Board of Pharmacy states that a pharmacist is not to agree to practice under terms or conditions that tend to interfere with or impair the proper exercise of professional judgment and skill, that tend to cause a deterioration of the quality of professional service and patient care, or that require the pharmacist to consent to unethical conduct; and

WHEREAS, the pharmacy work environment is increasingly complex due to a variety of different internal and external factors, including the use of quotas and metrics, as well as other quality indicators; and

WHEREAS, financial constraints may result in inadequate or inappropriate pharmacy staffing models, which could interfere with pharmacists' responsibilities regarding the provisions of patient care and services; and

WHEREAS, individuals managing pharmacy operations are not required to be licensed pharmacists and may lack adequate knowledge regarding the practice of pharmacy and the legal and professional responsibilities of pharmacists and pharmacy professionals; and

WHEREAS, the mental health and wellness of pharmacists and pharmacy professionals are essential to ensuring patient safety; and

WHEREAS, professional burnout is common among pharmacists and other healthcare professionals; and

WHEREAS, the ability of pharmacists to provide clinical services to patients, including, but not limited to, counseling, medication therapy management, immunizations, and other essential patient care services, is essential to patients in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, state and national pharmacy organizations, as well as state boards of pharmacy, are working to evaluate pharmacy workplace environments and patient safety; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the Tennessee Board of Pharmacy is hereby requested to study the work environment of pharmacies in Tennessee in order to determine if rules should be promulgated to promote patient safety.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to the executive director of the Tennessee Board of Pharmacy.